

Canton Grain Elevator

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance

The striking structure at the foot of Canton's Lazaretto Point that is the Canton Grain Elevator is significant both as one of the country's oldest operating structures of its type, and as a symbol of Baltimore's important place in the history of the grain trade. Constructed in 1918 by the Penn Central Railroad, the Canton Grain Elevator has a storage capacity of over 4-million bushels, and loads over 1-million long tons of grain per year.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-985
MAGI #0409855714

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Canton Grain Elevator

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Newgate Avenue and Newkirk Street

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ PARK

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☒ INDUSTRIAL

☒ TRANSPORTATION

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

CSY Finance, Inc. (Central Soya Co.)

(PR Dept)

Telephone #: 219-422-8541

STREET & NUMBER

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fayette and Calvert Sts.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Liber #: RHB 2651

Folio #: 440

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-985

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Canton Grain Elevator is the last of a series of grain elevators in Canton stretching back to the early nineteenth century. Built in 1918, it incorporated a conveyor belt system and bucket type elevators to efficiently move hundreds of carloads of grain weekly. Additional storage facilities were added so that by 1934 it was one of the largest elevators at tidewater.

The system begins with a car dump, which is essentially a hopper below the level of the railroad tracks. Grain cars have an end dumping chute because they are closed on top for sanitary reasons. Cars are emptied one at a time until the pier is full of empties. Dumping must then stop until the empties are removed. Grain flows into the tapered hoppers and is fed into the bottom of the elevators. These are sheetmetal ducts with continuous loops of canvas belt inside. Metal buckets on the belts scoop up the grain and carry it to the top of the storage building where it is cleaned and distributed to storage silos. Prior to shipment it is fed into weighing hoppers and thence to conveyors which carry it to waiting ships. This material handling system is essentially the same as that developed by Oliver Evans to move grain and flour in eighteenth century grist mills.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The striking structure at the foot of Canton's Lazaretto Point that is the Canton Grain Elevator is significant both as one of the country's oldest operating structures of its type, and as a symbol of Baltimore's important place in the history of the grain trade. Constructed in 1918 by the Penn Central Railroad, the Canton Grain Elevator has a storage capacity of over 4-million bushels, and loads over 1-million long tons of grain per year.

Historical Significance

The grain business in the port city of Baltimore is almost as old as the city itself. An Irishman, John Stevenson, is credited with initiating the grain trade around 1750, when he began making shipments of flour to Ireland. Soon the flour and grain trade overshadowed the tobacco industry, Baltimore's first export business.

During the beginnings of the grain trade, milled flour rather than raw grain was the main export. By 1805, there were 50 flour mills within an eighteen mile radius of the city, and by 1830, flour made up 68 percent of the Port's total exports. Shipments were made initially to Europe, and the trade grew to include West Indian and South American Markets. During World War I, the American government became heavily involved in the grain trade, and large international firms sprang up. Baltimore's small flour exporters were pushed out of business. From then on, Baltimore's part in the grain industry was confined to the handling and exporting of raw grain. Always a major industry in Baltimore, in the 1950's grain was second only to coal in the city's exports.

The Canton Grain elevator was built in 1918 by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Grain was loaded from the incoming railroad cars to the outgoing ships via special tracks from the main lines to the elevators. The Canton Elevator was not the first on Lazaretto Point:

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Factsheet provided by Central Soya Company.
 Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore, (Phil., Louis Leverts, 1881), p.

Articles in Vertical Files, MD Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ann Steele, Kathleen Stacey

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

January 1981

STREET & NUMBER

217 N. Charles Street

TELEPHONE

301-396-1931

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland 21201

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

the Baltimore Elevator Company operated three elevators in Canton. They had a combined capacity of 1,350,000 bushels. One of the first large grain elevators east of the Allegheny Mountains was also built in the Canton area. The Penn Central elevator was considered to be the largest in the tidewater, with a capacity of over 4 million bushels.

In 1970, CSY Finance, a subsidiary of Central Soya Company of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, bought the Canton Grain elevator from Pennsylvania Central Railroad. Since then it has been used by Central Soya's Grain and Soybean Processing divisions to export grain to worldwide markets. Corn, wheat, and soy bean meal are delivered to the elevator primarily by rail, but some locally produced grain is also delivered by truck. The elevator loads about one million long tons of grain into about one hundred ships per year. There are approximately one hundred employees conducting the storage, handling, and loading of the grains. The grain elevator is also the site of a commercial business for customers outside of Central Soya.



CANTON GRAIN ELEVATOR
BALTIMORE, MD.

USGS 7.5* BALTO. EAST QUAD

18° 65' 77.2" 43 46600 (8-985)

(CURTIS BAY)

SCALE 1:24,000

66

32° 30'

66

1. SITE I.D. NO. B 9 8 5

HAER INVENTORY

Historic American Engineering Record
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)☐ YES☒ NO☐ UNKNOWN

Transportation

(Cargo - Handling)

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Canton Grain Elevator

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

CSY Finance, Inc. (Central Soya)

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

Fort Wayne, Indiana

46802

10. STATE MD COUNTY NAME

CITY VICINITY
Baltimore

CONG. DIST.

STATE IN COUNTY NAME

CITY VICINITY

CONG. DIST.

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)

Newgate Ave. at New Kirk St.

12. EXISTING SURVEYS

☐ NR☐ NHL☐ HABS☐ HAER-I☐ HAER☐ NPS☐ CL5☐ CONF☐ STATE☐ COUNTY☐ LOCAL☐ OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES/DESCRIBE BELOW:

☐ INTERIOR INTACT☒ EXTERIOR INTACT☐ ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN

UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN

SCALE

☐ 1:24☐ 1:62.5

QUAD NAME

☐ OTHER

SCALE

☐ 1:24☐ 1:62.5

QUAD NAME

☐ OTHER15. CONDITION 70 ☐ EXCELLENT 71 ☒ GOOD 72 ☐ FAIR 73 ☐ DETERIORATED74 ☐ RUINS75 ☐ UNEXPOSED76 ☐ ALTERED82 ☐ DESTROYED85 ☐ DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Ann Steele, Kathleen Stacey Balto. Museum of Industry

DATE

Jan. 1981

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

[See attached Statement of significance]

18. ORIGINAL USE

Transportation (Cargo)

PRESENT USE

Same

ADAPTIVE USE

19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS AND OTHER

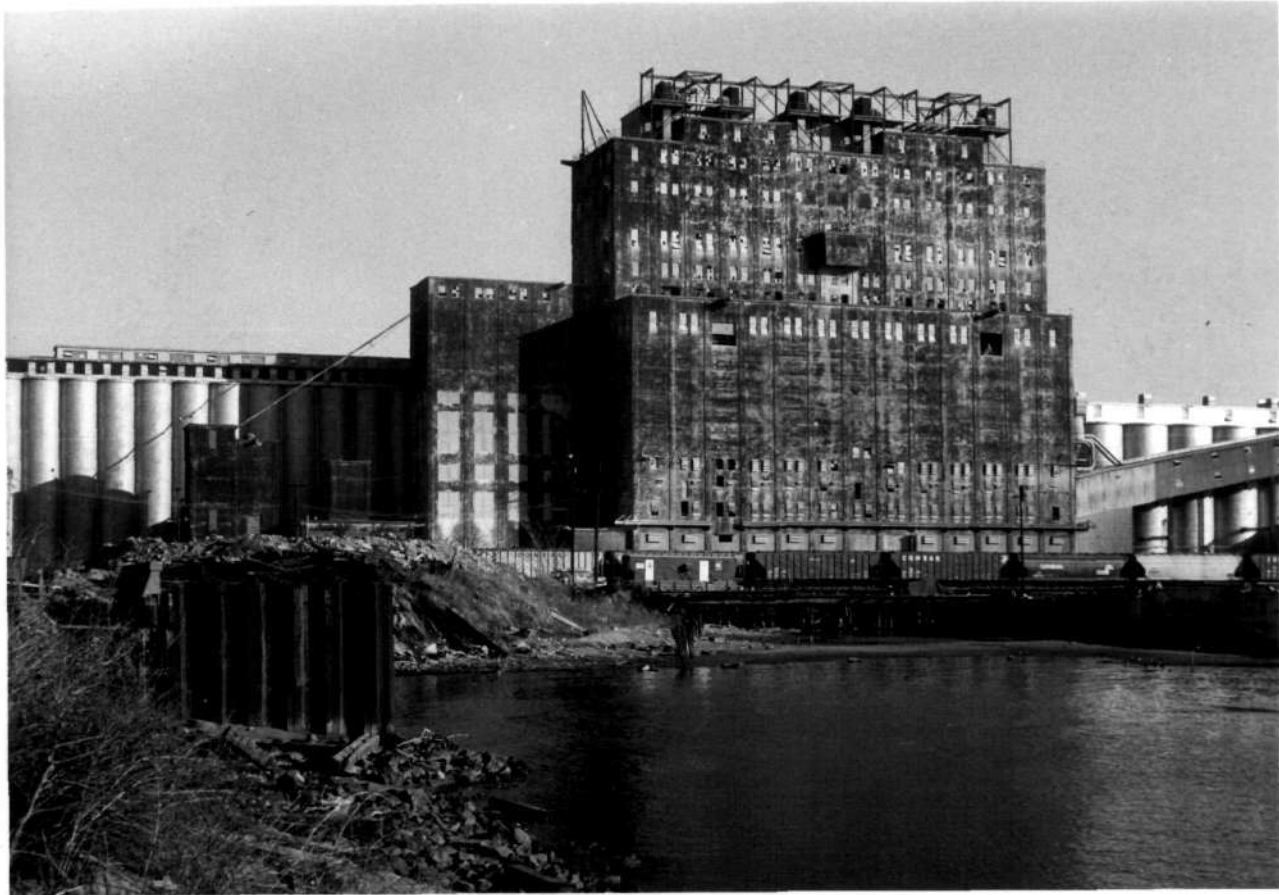
Info. provided by Central Soya, Inc.

Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore (Phil. Louis Leverett, 1881), p.

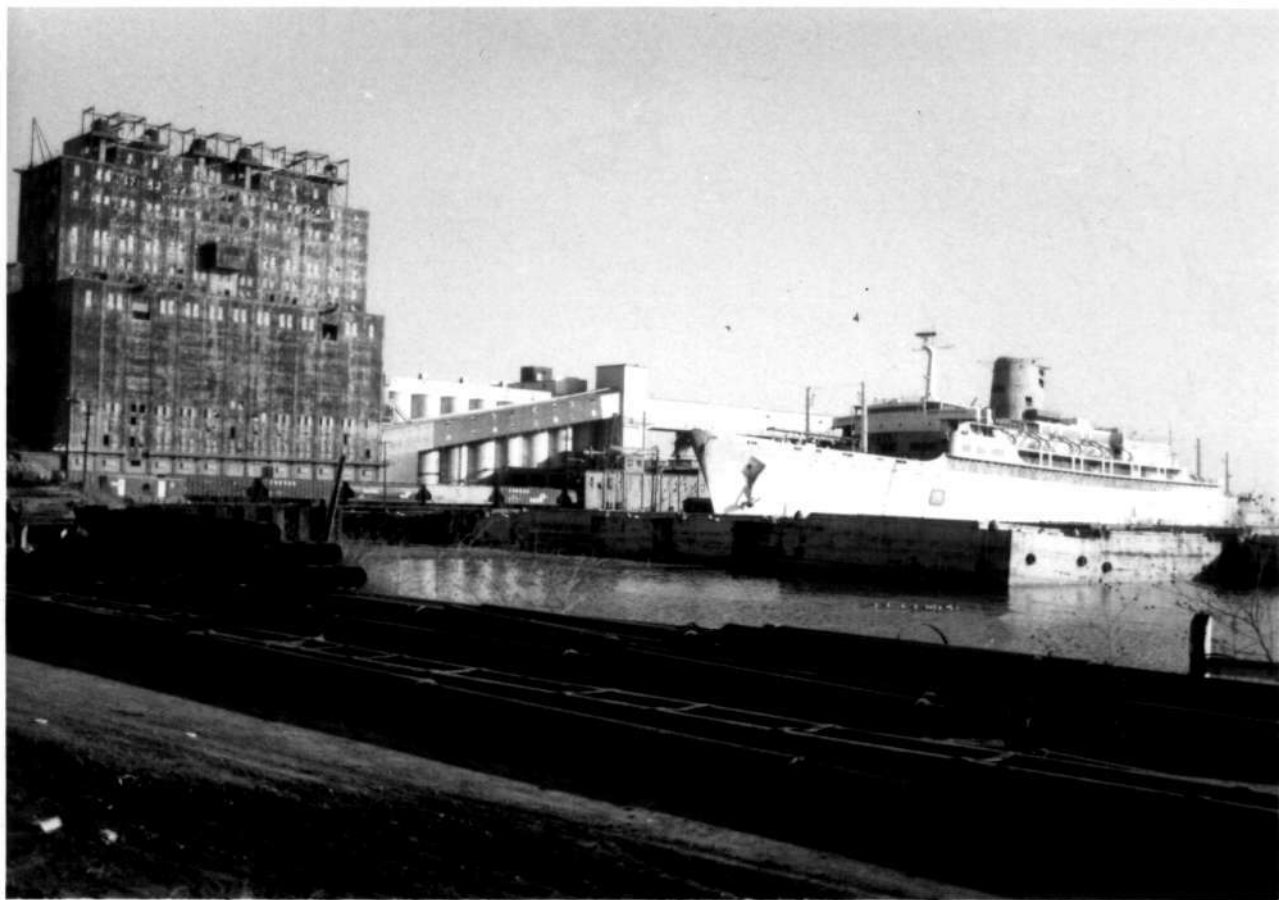
Articles in vertical files, MD Room, Enoch Pratt Central Library.

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B-985



CANTON GRAIN ELEVATOR B-985
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND
PHOTO: LINDA DARR
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST
12/80 West Facade



CANTON GRAIN ELEVATOR B-985

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

PHOTO: LINDA DAUR

NEB. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST

12/80 Looking East/South



CANTON GRAIN ELEVATOR B-985

BALTIMORE CITY MARYLAND

PHOTO: LINDA DAOR

NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST

12/80 Looking South/East
(from Newgate St.)



CANTON GRAIN ELEVATOR B-985

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

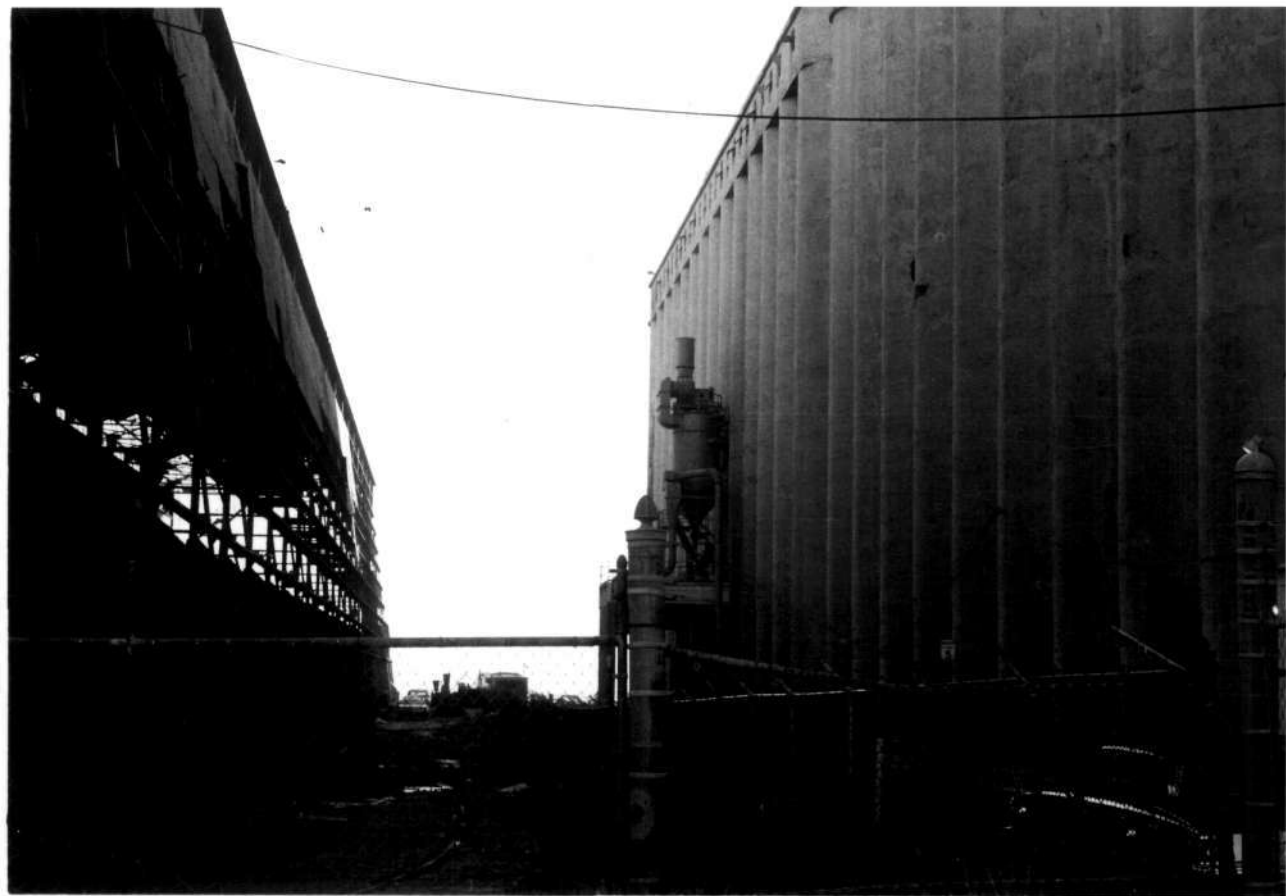
PHOTO: LINDA PAER

NB LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST

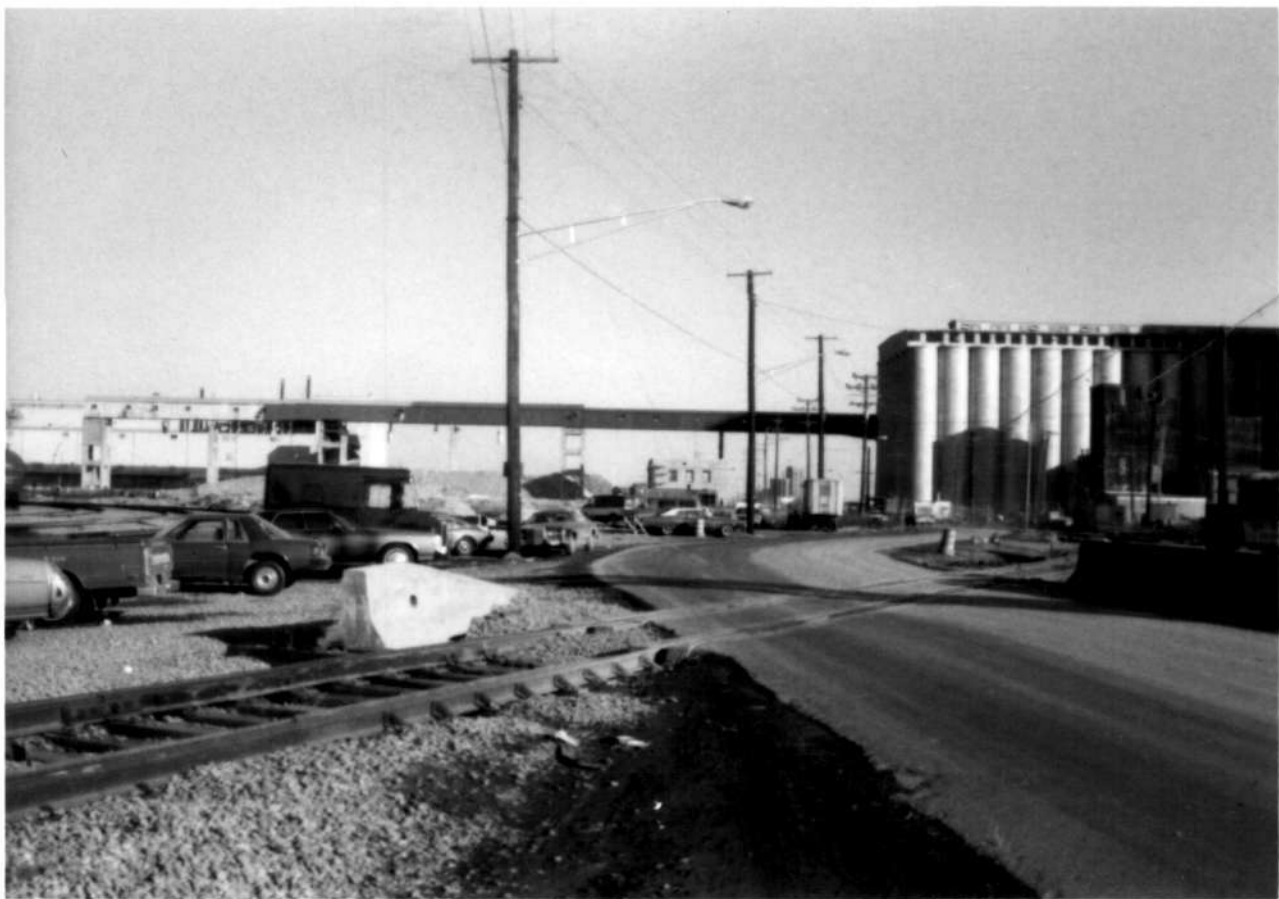
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Office bld., looking

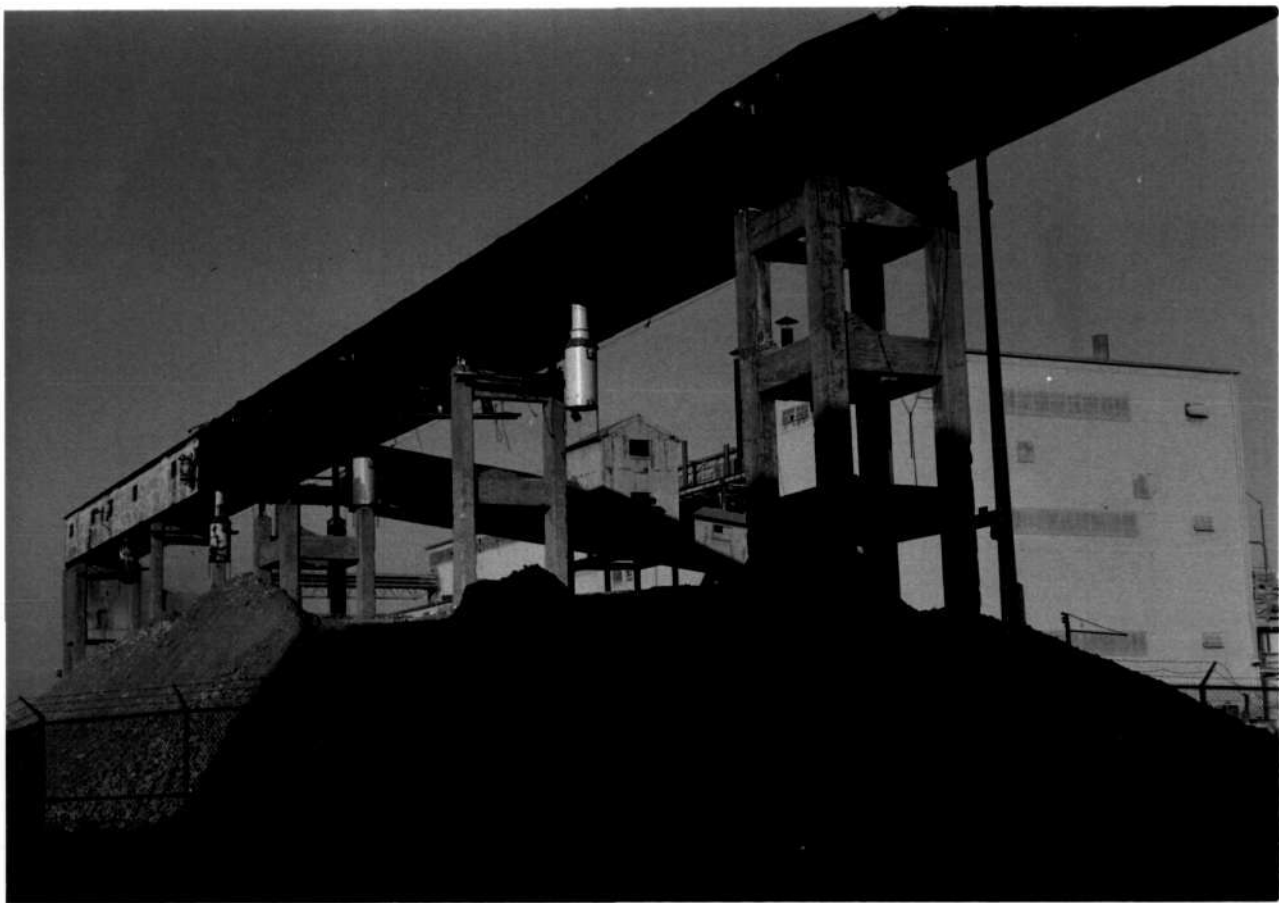
North/East



CANTON GRAIN ELEVATOR B-985
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND
PHOTO: LINDA DAOR
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST
12/80 Storage Silos



CANTON GRAIN ELEVATOR B-985
BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND
PHOTO: LINDA DADR
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST
12/80 Newgate Ave. Looking
East



~~BALTIMORE GRAIN ELEVATOR~~

~~B-985~~

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

PHOTO: LINDA DAUR

NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST

12/80

Machinery House + beltway,
looking N/W from Newgate St. ✓

B-985